Фамилия \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Имя\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Класс\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Apple faces its ‘Nike moment’ over working conditions in Chinese factories (intermediate)**

*Apple contractor Foxconn raises wages by 25% after reports of long hours for the hundreds of thousands of staff in China Charles Arthur and agencies 20 February, 2012*

1 Apple is having a “Nike moment”, a problem that Nike had in the 1990s when its use of cheap labour in the Far East was discovered, one of the inspectors of Apple’s Chinese suppliers has said.

2 Speaking to ABC News’ Nightline programme, Ines Kaempfer of the US Fair Labor Association (FLA), which is inspecting the Foxconn assembly plants used by Apple in China, said: “There was a moment for Nike in the ‘90s when they got a lot of negative publicity. And they weren’t the worst. It’s probably like Apple. They’re not necessarily the worst; it’s just that the publicity is starting to increase. We call it the ‘Nike moment’.”

3 Foxconn, which is one of Apple’s main contractors, said on Monday it had raised wages by up to 25% after some workers committed suicide in 2011. There were also reports of long hours for the hundreds of thousands of staff.

4 It is the second big salary increase in less than two years at the world’s largest electronics contract manufacturer, where workers’ conditions have been closely inspected.

5 Apple asked the FLA to carry out the inspection. The FLA aims to end sweatshop conditionsin factories.

6 The continuing reports of deaths and distress at Foxconn have created a publicity problem for Apple. So far Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and Dell, which also use Foxconn for assembly work, have not commented on their use of its factories.

7 Tim Cook, Apple’s Chief Executive, says that the company takes working conditions very seriously and that every worker has the right to a fair and safe work environment.

8 Foxconn, which has its headquarters in Taiwan, employs about 1.2 million workers at a small number of plants in China, which are run with almost military discipline. Staff work for six or seven days a week and for up to 14 hours a day.

9 The workers assemble iPhones and iPads for Apple, Xbox 360 video game consoles for Microsoft, and computers for Dell and HewlettPackard. Foxconn is one of China’s largest single private employers.

10 Since 1 February, Foxconn’s staff receive 1,800-2,500 yuan ($285-395) a month, the company said.

11 “This is the way capitalism is supposed to work,” David Autor, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told The New York Times. “As nations develop, wages rise and life theoretically gets better for everyone.

12 “But in China, for that change to be permanent, consumers have to be willing to pay more for their goods. When people read about bad Chinese factories in the paper, they might have a moment of outrage. But then they go to Amazon and only want to pay the lowest prices.”

13 Nike faced an outcry in the 1990s when independent reports revealed sweatshop conditions at a number of its suppliers. Continued protests changed its mind.

14 Foxconn also wants to limit working hours. The pay rises are compensation for workers’ reduced overtime, Company Spokesman Simon Hsing said in a statement. Foxconn said it was co-operating with the FLA inspectors, promising again to provide a safe and fair working environment.

15 In 2010, suicides at an enormous Foxconn complex in the southern boomtown of Shenzhen drew attention to the stress of many young workers.

16 At that time, the company denied that it ran assembly lines that were too fast and demanded too much overtime, but it soon announced two pay rises that more than doubled basic salaries to up to 2,000 yuan a month.

17 In February, dozens of workers assembling video game consoles climbed to a Foxconn factory roof in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and some said they would jump to their deaths because of a disagreement with the company.

18 The New York Times reported that workers were happy about the pay rises and overtime limits, but some were unsure they would cause much real change.

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**1 Working conditions**

*Complete the Foxconn column in the chart with information from the article.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **working conditions** | **Foxconn** |
| hours per day |  |
| days per week |  |
| overtime expected? |  |
| stress level |  |
| motivation |  |
| working environment |  |

Фамилия \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Имя\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Класс\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2 Key words**

*Write the key words from the article next to the definitions below. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.*

|  |
| --- |
| assembly plant cheap labour sweatshop contractor publicity suicide |

1. a company whose job is to provide goods or to do work for another company, at a particular price \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (subtitle)

2. workers who get very little money \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)

3. a factory where you build something by putting all its parts together\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)

4. attention in magazines, newspapers or television \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)

5. the action of deliberately killing yourself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 3)

6. a factory where people work very hard in bad conditions and earn very little money \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 5)

|  |
| --- |
| compensation consumers outcry outrage overtime suppliers |

7. people who buy and use products \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 12)

8. a strong feeling of anger and shock at something that you feel is wrong or unfair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(para 12)

9. an angry expression of protest or shock by a lot of people, as a reaction to something that someone has done or to something that has happened \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 13)

10. companies that provide or sell a product or a service \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 13)

11. money that someone receives because something bad has happened to them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(para 14)

12. extra hours that someone works at their job \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (para 14)

**3 Similar words**

*Put the letters in the correct order to find two similar words from the article meaning:*

1. money you get for doing your job AWEGS AYASLR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. people who work at a company FSATF OWRSERK \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. a place where people work to build or make something AYCOFTR TLPNA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4 Comprehension check**

*Choose the best answer to these questions.*

**1. Which bad business practices is the article about?**

a. cheap labour and bad working conditions

b. suicides and stress

c. capitalism and consumers

**2. Which countries / regions does the article specifically refer to?**

a. India and China

b. the Far East and Europe

c. the US and China

**3. What is the business relationship between Foxconn and Apple?**

a. Foxconn’s products are put together at Apple’s factories.

b. Apple’s products are put together at Foxconn’s factories.

c. Foxconn supplies parts for Apple products.

**4. Why is Foxconn being investigated?**

a. because there are too many workers in their small factories

b. because workers haven’t been paid for the work they have done

c. because working conditions in their factories are so bad that some workers have killed themselves

**5. Which other global companies do business with Foxconn?**

a. Nike and Dell

b. Dell and Microsoft

c. Nike and Hewlett-Packard

**6. How are consumers to blame for the workers’ conditions at Foxconn?**

a. We buy from Amazon and not directly from Apple.

b. We want to pay the lowest prices possible for our electronic goods.

c. We buy too many electronic goods.